A2575-3

American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005

Monthly Completion Report

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: NOVEMBER 1986

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

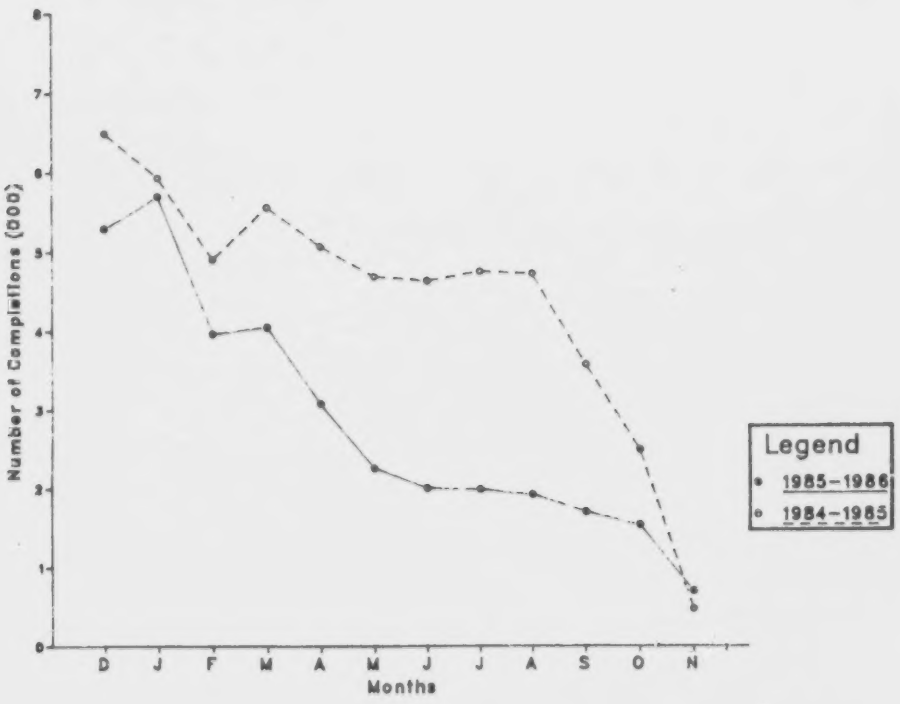

TABLE I: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS[4]	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	14,270	59,404,883	5,070	28,837,100	9,488	48,051,665	28,828	136,293,648	29,232	137,769,201
1986: NOV	257	886,875	47	318,893	390	2,004,511	694	3,210,279	698	3,225,443
OCT	691	2,582,359	234	1,341,527	603	3,052,323	1,528	6,976,209	1,541	7,024,940
SEP	759	3,169,204	292	1,712,779	642	3,290,018	1,693	8,172,001	1,707	8,225,244
AUG	766	3,371,628	383	2,003,234	763	3,564,840	1,912	8,939,702	1,938	9,029,719
JUL	819	3,648,387	431	2,221,473	730	3,650,796	1,980	9,520,656	2,019	9,892,423
JUN	869	3,658,634	423	2,361,477	705	3,355,708	1,997	9,375,819	2,025	9,482,242
MAY	1,035	4,745,617	432	2,544,151	786	4,046,033	2,253	11,335,801	2,300	11,525,656
APR	1,563	7,011,646	579	3,546,029	930	4,651,145	3,072	15,208,820	3,120	15,404,221
MAR	2,188	9,293,856	659	3,947,329	1,196	5,873,326	4,043	19,114,511	4,090	19,264,112
FEB	2,217	9,459,912	648	3,820,122	1,096	6,103,575	3,961	19,383,609	4,021	19,616,661
JAN	3,106	11,576,765	942	5,020,086	1,647	8,459,390	5,695	25,056,241	5,773	25,318,540
TOTAL 1985	34,905	138,211,549	12,289	68,037,312	20,374	100,851,329	67,568	307,100,190	69,166	312,121,385
1985: DEC	2,695	10,889,846	862	4,861,965	1,735	8,932,178	5,292	24,683,989	5,372	24,982,593
NOV	2,491	9,919,847	853	4,920,195	1,489	7,373,440	4,833	22,213,482	4,905	22,485,193
OCT	2,906	11,475,283	1,163	5,959,441	1,703	8,275,083	5,772	25,709,807	5,863	26,032,880
SEP	2,743	10,442,022	1,046	5,444,109	1,664	8,127,165	5,453	24,013,296	5,543	24,265,263
AUG	3,229	12,332,382	1,089	5,856,552	1,864	8,816,077	6,182	27,005,011	6,276	27,271,819
JUL	3,021	11,182,735	1,061	5,830,536	1,775	8,311,854	5,857	25,325,125	6,014	25,768,524
JUN	2,874	11,080,270	999	5,372,807	1,620	7,610,956	5,493	24,064,033	5,638	24,519,784
MAY	2,805	11,534,886	893	5,000,969	1,627	8,114,047	5,325	24,649,902	5,520	25,243,255
APR	2,908	11,692,896	976	5,695,318	1,686	8,400,624	5,570	25,788,838	5,722	26,211,635
MAR	3,193	12,979,722	1,085	6,223,524	1,779	8,818,102	6,057	28,021,348	6,262	28,567,079
FEB	2,784	11,562,682	1,077	6,160,826	1,495	7,806,776	5,356	25,530,284	5,493	25,982,866
JAN	3,256	13,118,978	1,185	6,711,070	1,937	10,265,027	6,378	30,095,075	6,558	30,790,494
TOTAL 1984	43,483	165,566,435	14,608	80,360,774	24,840	117,617,894	82,931	363,545,103	85,121	369,277,017
1984: DEC	3,571	13,250,316	1,310	6,847,271	2,086	10,478,432	6,967	30,576,019	7,149	31,046,594
NOV	3,701	13,837,532	1,402	7,092,487	1,998	9,735,853	7,101	30,665,872	7,278	31,148,026
OCT	3,722	14,693,832	1,347	7,271,437	2,042	9,609,998	7,111	31,575,267	7,343	32,239,726
SEP	3,631	13,331,652	1,232	6,523,759	2,071	9,467,948	6,934	29,323,359	7,075	29,694,840
AUG	3,853	14,102,134	1,390	7,459,394	2,501	11,182,215	7,744	32,743,743	7,946	33,344,736
JUL	3,893	14,550,090	1,244	7,012,789	2,269	10,220,558	7,406	31,783,437	7,592	32,272,355
JUN	3,848	14,144,605	1,305	6,944,002	2,329	10,435,371	7,482	31,523,978	7,671	31,998,838
MAY	3,680	14,120,988	1,168	6,678,339	1,947	9,446,415	6,795	30,245,742	6,976	30,667,062
APR	3,221	12,124,922	859	5,334,946	1,706	8,383,945	5,786	25,843,813	5,986	26,305,698
MAR	3,389	13,526,204	1,034	6,421,333	1,787	8,901,492	6,210	28,849,029	6,387	29,284,034
FEB	3,394	13,440,600	1,127	6,174,543	1,806	8,838,383	6,327	28,453,526	6,485	28,888,433
JAN	3,580	14,443,560	1,190	6,600,474	2,298	10,917,284	7,068	31,961,318	7,233	32,386,675
TOTAL 1983	38,119	140,502,997	12,635	69,545,185	23,566	103,124,419	74,320	313,172,601	76,348	317,932,149
TOTAL 1982	40,170	152,817,746	17,162	99,143,844	25,835	122,082,298	83,167	374,043,888	85,399	379,323,181

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE II: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	829	5,012,280	548	3,780,360	4,206	24,274,992	5,583	33,067,632
1986: NOV	12	62,067	9	51,887	190	996,818	211	1,110,772
OCT	33	212,258	21	136,160	278	1,568,186	332	1,916,604
SEP	31	149,727	34	173,756	276	1,565,322	341	1,888,805
AUG	46	247,974	40	266,399	326	1,752,176	412	2,266,549
JUL	62	344,090	53	340,385	320	1,726,832	435	2,411,307
JUN	53	294,753	45	288,928	278	1,554,412	376	2,138,093
MAY	76	433,342	43	354,306	376	2,218,623	495	3,006,271
APR	96	674,391	60	500,310	410	2,384,862	566	3,559,563
MAR	114	762,094	71	563,662	523	3,003,220	708	4,328,976
FEB	120	753,217	74	532,672	493	3,186,023	687	4,471,912
JAN	186	1,078,367	98	571,895	736	4,318,518	1,020	5,968,780
TOTAL 1985	1,765	10,208,788	1,238	8,299,910	8,957	49,310,877	11,960	67,819,575
1985: DEC	146	852,558	81	535,731	840	4,772,018	1,067	6,160,307
NOV	108	637,817	88	657,075	672	3,680,575	868	4,975,467
OCT	145	803,938	85	489,497	768	4,072,852	998	5,366,287
SEP	121	653,333	76	519,708	738	3,972,873	935	5,145,914
AUG	172	1,010,106	96	626,083	814	4,236,900	1,082	5,873,089
JUL	139	798,369	91	587,364	751	3,931,852	981	5,317,585
JUN	129	657,974	113	815,700	687	3,444,028	929	4,917,702
MAY	154	899,807	123	779,966	682	3,813,115	959	5,492,888
APR	129	713,574	113	772,762	715	4,063,566	957	5,549,902
MAR	183	1,100,015	108	693,692	735	4,146,997	1,026	5,940,704
FEB	164	1,026,618	120	841,371	686	4,056,365	970	5,924,354
JAN	175	1,054,679	144	980,961	869	5,119,736	1,188	7,155,376
TOTAL 1984	2,318	12,547,228	1,562	9,845,472	11,053	58,348,238	14,933	80,740,938
1984: DEC	157	801,052	104	580,181	947	5,426,427	1,208	6,807,660
NOV	179	988,586	111	666,224	862	4,742,662	1,152	6,397,472
OCT	159	825,650	140	898,937	958	4,847,498	1,257	6,572,085
SEP	216	1,170,730	129	871,775	908	4,609,424	1,253	6,651,929
AUG	187	998,761	124	806,449	1,074	5,536,338	1,385	7,341,548
JUL	191	992,533	152	1,002,854	1,062	5,235,591	1,405	7,230,978
JUN	200	1,123,689	135	786,190	1,078	5,330,407	1,413	7,240,286
MAY	215	1,169,523	134	841,878	845	4,622,042	1,194	6,633,443
APR	156	918,420	99	678,757	753	4,057,351	1,008	5,654,528
MAR	216	1,200,913	152	1,035,415	743	4,181,409	1,111	6,417,737
FEB	206	1,163,415	150	889,126	812	4,442,097	1,168	6,494,638
JAN	236	1,193,956	132	787,686	1,011	5,316,992	1,379	7,298,634
TOTAL 1983	2,138	10,635,927	1,618	10,111,625	10,062	48,348,037	13,818	69,095,589
TOTAL 1982	2,487	13,511,927	2,133	14,618,788	11,220	60,261,907	15,840	88,392,622

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE III: TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS[1] BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR REPORTED TO THE API DURING NOVEMBER 1986

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLE		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[4] CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	947	3,623,203	554	2,859,247	827	3,970,697	2,328	10,453,147	2,349	10,522,536
1986: NOV	257	886,875	47	318,893	390	2,004,511	694	3,210,279	698	3,225,443
OCT	326	1,440,728	145	898,050	216	1,093,757	687	3,432,535	697	3,473,341
SEP	144	555,004	105	521,223	70	297,434	319	1,373,661	323	1,380,685
AUG	63	231,677	78	281,300	38	118,499	179	631,476	180	632,876
JUL	40	141,047	64	288,263	28	90,061	132	519,371	132	519,371
JUN	28	68,895	38	156,451	18	64,590	84	289,936	86	294,931
MAY	15	63,555	23	146,846	11	60,250	49	270,651	49	270,651
APR	16	48,113	16	80,049	11	44,228	43	172,390	43	172,390
MAR	15	47,691	18	72,733	21	94,541	54	214,965	54	214,965
FEB	20	83,589	10	37,442	11	60,083	41	181,114	41	181,114
JAN	23	56,029	10	57,997	13	42,743	46	156,769	46	156,769
TOTAL 1985	127	270,625	47	203,782	55	169,351	229	643,758	240	687,159
1985: DEC	11	21,115	7	33,935	7	15,220	25	70,270	27	79,330
NOV	14	48,476	11	75,051	8	14,574	33	138,101	35	147,131
OCT	15	29,425	5	23,484	2	7,353	22	60,262	23	64,762
SEP	16	31,894	8	16,461	5	22,256	29	70,611	30	75,461
AUG	14	37,131	5	12,204	5	15,565	24	64,900	25	65,582
JUL	13	22,494	2	6,108	11	39,234	26	67,836	27	72,636
JUN	12	16,303	0	0	7	20,457	19	36,760	19	36,760
MAY	17	20,036	2	3,407	2	7,210	21	30,653	22	35,339
APR	1	442	2	15,488	0	0	3	15,930	3	15,930
MAR	9	25,551	0	0	1	8,075	10	33,626	12	39,419
FEB	3	10,299	3	5,624	5	16,002	11	31,925	11	31,925
JAN	2	7,459	2	12,020	2	3,405	6	22,884	6	22,884
TOTAL 1984	65	141,255	12	62,186	12	47,604	89	251,045	98	282,581
1984: DEC	6	13,946	2	13,579	3	13,039	11	40,564	11	40,564
NOV	5	4,106	1	6,900	0	0	6	11,006	6	11,006
OCT	5	14,298	3	10,021	1	539	9	24,858	9	24,858
SEP	6	7,872	0	0	3	5,102	9	12,974	9	12,974
AUG	10	11,536	0	0	0	0	10	11,536	13	22,036
JUL	8	14,267	2	20,111	0	0	10	34,378	12	41,378
JUN	7	23,423	3	9,741	0	0	10	33,164	12	40,179
MAY	3	5,882	0	0	1	9,558	4	15,440	6	22,461
APR	6	18,735	0	0	0	0	6	18,735	6	18,735
MAR	6	17,730	0	0	2	900	8	18,630	8	18,630
FEB	2	6,990	1	1,834	0	0	3	8,824	3	8,824
JAN	1	2,470	0	0	2	18,466	3	20,936	3	20,936
TOTAL 1983	33	47,454	7	23,973	23	88,561	63	159,988	63	159,988
YRS PRIOR TO 1983	12	17,999	1	1,950	22	83,121	35	103,070	35	103,070
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[5]	1,184	4,100,536	621	3,151,138	939	4,359,334	2,744	11,611,008	2,785	11,755,334

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of November 28, 1986. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.

2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.

3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.

2. See footnote (2) above.

3. See footnote (3) above.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.

5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period November 1, 1986 through November 28, 1986. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 1966 the American Petroleum Institute, in conjunction with other industry associations and federal and state agencies, agreed on a set of definitions for terms used in reporting statistical information. Included were the definitions for oil wells and gas wells, which have appeared as footnotes in the API's drilling publications since 1970. In most cases these definitions were adhered to.

The one exception to this was in the state of Ohio, where a substantial number of wells produce primarily gas along with relatively small amounts of oil. The Ohio Division of Oil and Gas classified these as "combination" wells. In reporting these wells to the API, the Ohio Oil and Gas Division developed a formula for classifying these combination wells as either oil or gas. Therefore, for the years 1970 through 1985, certain wells were classified as gas wells, which under the API definitions would have been classified as oil wells.

Petroleum Information Corporation, on the other hand, adhered to the definitions established, and thus reported these wells as oil wells. Thus, beginning in 1986, when PI was retained as the source for drilling information, wells which in the past would have been reported as gas wells now are being included in the oil well category.

This change will not be too apparent for the current report period since the reporting time lag for some areas tends to minimize the impact. However, as more 1986 data are reported to the API, the shift in well classification, from gas to oil, will become evident.

Therefore, the API has modified its data base and has changed the previously reported gas wells to oil wells to coincide with the new reporting basis. Thus, the April "Monthly Completion Report" shows the number of oil wells and gas wells for the current month and all prior months on the new basis.

1/ A well which produces oil from one zone, regardless of the number of productive gas zones, is classified as an oil well. A well which produces gas from one or more zones is classified as a gas well.

The January through March, 1986 "Monthly Completion Reports" also have been reclassified and they will be made available to Subscribers on request. If you wish to receive the three prior monthly reports please write to:

Drilling Statistics Section
American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005